

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLINCORRWG.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1949.

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Dr. J.M. Taylor (up to 1st. October
1949)

Dr. D.J. Davies (from 1st. October
1949)

Medical Officer of Health.

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1949.

Chairman

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor E. Price J.P., Cymmer. Councillor G. Williams J.P., Glyncorrwg

Councillor D. Morris J.P., Abergwynfi. Councillor D. Williams, Abergwynfi.

" " A.D. Hunt, " " J. Thomas, Glyncorrwg.

" " H. Field J.P., " " J.A. Evans, " "

" " D. John, " " A. Leonard, " "

" " T.J. Lloyd, " " F. Marchant, Cymmer

" " H. Abraham, Cymmer. " " E.O. Hopkins, "

" " Wm. Lewis,

Councillor Mrs. S. Phillips, Cymmer.

General Purposes Committee.

Chairman - Councillor A. Leonard, Glyncorrwg.

Housing Committee Chairman - Councillor F. Marchant, Cymmer.

Finance Committee Chairman - Councillor F. Marchant, Cymmer.

Officials.

Clerk to the Council.....Mr. T.D. Windsor Williams.

Surveyor and Engineer.....Mr. T.S. Walker, A.R.I.C.S.

Assistant Surveyor and Engineer.....Mr. H. Miles, B.Sc. (Civil Eng)

Assistant Surveyor and Engineer.....Mr. E.S. Rees.

Surveying Assistant.....Mr. H. Thomas (from 1st. May, 1949)

Engineer's Costs Assistant.....Mr. P. Evans (from 19th. April, 1949)

Engineer's ClerkMrs. Mary Jones,

Treasurer & Accountant & Rating & Valuation OfficerMr. Llewelyn Morgan.

Medical Officer of Health Dr. J.M. Taylor, M.B. Ch.B.
(from 1.10.49) - Dr. D.J. Davies M.B.E., M.B., B.Sc., D.C., D.P.

Sanitary Inspector Mr. John Tate, Cert. Royal San. Institute
 and San. Inspector's Exam. Joint Board, Meat Insp.
 Cert. Royal San. Institute.

Indoor Collector and Ledger Clerk..... Mr. S. Fuge.

Housing Collector..... Mr. R. Eckett.

" " Mr. E. Hughes.

General Clerk Mr. R.G. Dayson.

Junior Clerk Miss Enid Isaac.

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Glyncoirwg Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report on the public health of the area for the year 1949. It is prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health. I hope that it will help your understanding of the public health problems which face the Council and the appropriate officials.

Until the 1st. October 1949, Dr. J.M. Taylor was your Medical Officer of Health. He has been consulted in the preparation of the report and has given me useful advice and information. He wishes to express again his gratitude for the help and kindnesses of the members, officials and staff during his long association with the Council.

The main industry in the area is still coalmining. It has its well known hazards including silicosis, nystagmus, accidents and bent knee and elbow. Dr. Taylor, in his long professional life at Cymmer, has been pleased to see the gradual decrease of the former two conditions. Miner's nystagmus is now rare in the area. The accident rate and the incidence of bent knee and elbow remain as serious problems, but it is hoped that the National Coal Board with the co-operation of the miners will be able to deal effectively with such hazards.

During this century, there has been much discontent in the mining industry. This has been engendered by periods of unemployment, a high rate of disablement, low incomes and, in part, the nature of the work and unsatisfactory human relationships between the employers and employees. It is hoped that in the future coal mining will provide a satisfactory career for a man. It has been said that, without satisfying work, there can be no sure foundation for physical or mental health.

With the improvements in the industry, there should be rapid progress in transforming the present somewhat ill-planned and congested mining villages into attractive residential areas with the necessary amenities for the miners and their families. The Croeserw estate is a step in the right direction. Provision of adequate light industries for the employment of disabled miners and female labour is another essential.

During the year there were no major local developments. The death rate remained comparatively low.

There was a fall in the birth rate. Most other areas in the country experienced a similar fall. The high post war birth rate could not be expected to continue. The number of cases of infectious diseases in the area caused no problem. No case of infantile paralysis occurred despite the epidemic in other parts of the country. There was a mild epidemic of measles in the Cymmer and Glyncorrwg areas but serious cases were uncommon.

Tuberculosis remains a serious problem. Twenty new cases were reported in the area, an increase of seven cases as compared with 1948. The shortage of staffed sanatorium beds prevented the patients from obtaining satisfactory early treatment.

The National Health Service caused few changes in the area. The Glamorgan County Council did arrange for an increase in the clinic services at Cymmer, Blaengwynfi, Glyncorrwg, Abercragan and Duffryn Rhondda and home nursing and home help services were organised throughout the area.

The completion of one hundred and sixty-three houses by the Council during the year was a very creditable performance. The importance of adequate and satisfactory housing from a health aspect cannot be overstressed. Throughout the year, Mr. Tate continued his routine inspection of dwellinghouses and tried to secure the remedy or removal of sanitary and constructional defects which were prejudicing the health and comfort of the occupants. This work continued to be difficult owing to the shortage of materials and skilled labour.

I wish to thank those who have helped me with the compilation of the report. Mr. Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has kindly prepared the sections on general information, housing, water supplies and hygiene of factories and food and has helped me with other sections. The administrative staff of the Port Talbot and Glyncorrwg Health Division have tabulated the vital statistics.

Since my appointment on the 1st. October, 1949, I have been indebted to the members, officials and staff of the Council and the general practitioners of the area for their courtesy and assistance. The Divisional Health Office staff have undertaken in a loyal and efficient manner my clerical and statistical work.

Your obedient servant,

D.J. DAVIES.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The Glyncofwrwg Urban District Council was constituted in 1893. The urban district covers an area of 13,925 acres.

Narrow valleys and steep mountain slopes are characteristic physical features of the area.

The narrow valleys cause great concentration and rapidity of air currents in the district.

The rainfall in the area, which has averaged 72.19 inches per annum during the past ten years, is probably among the highest in Glamorgan.

Heavy rains rarely cause accumulations of water, but act as a useful aid to the sanitation of the district.

The mountain slopes are being progressively clothed with young conifer trees under an extensive scheme of afforestation now being carried out by the Forestry Commission.

The mining of coal is the chief industrial activity carried on in the area.

Coals being mined include anthracite, dry steam and bituminous. There are large deposits still unworked.

Recently a factory for the manufacture of dress jewelry and plastics has been established in the area at Cynmer. Approximately 400 persons, mostly females, are employed.

The growth and development of the area are shown by the population figures which are as follows:-

For the year 1901	the census population was	6,452
" " " 1911	" " " "	8,639
" " " 1921	" " " "	10,772
" " " 1931	" " " "	10,208
" " " 1949	" estimated "	9,023

The rateable value of the area for the year ended 31st. December, 1949, was as follows:-

	£.	s.	d.
General Rate Purposes	27,705.	0.	0
Sum represented by 1d Rate	99.	7.	9

The main sewer, which has its outfall in the sea at Port Talbot, is laid in the beds of the river Afan and its tributaries. Practically the whole of the houses in the area with the exception of a few outlying farms and dwellinghouses are connected to the main sewerage system.

The Council have their own refuse collection motor vehicles of an approved type. Collections are made on alternative days. The refuse is disposed of on tips in various parts of the district which are sited as far from dwelling houses as possible. Controlled methods of tipping are not, at present, being used.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In contrast to a general practitioner, who has to assess the health of the individual patient, a medical officer of health has to judge the state of health of the community. The latter judgment is based not on medical examination of every citizen but on certain figures which are called vital statistics. These are derived from the registration of deaths, births, stillbirths and the notifications of cases of tuberculosis and certain infectious diseases.

Certain forms of ill-health - feverish colds, forms of rheumatism and psychoneurosis - do not result in death but cause much unhappiness and loss of work. It has not been possible to prepare figures of the prevalence of these conditions among the population but they are the commoner causes of attendances at doctors' surgeries and absences from work.

The detailed statistical tables, required by the Welsh Board of Health, are given at the end of the report. In this section, a general explanatory review of the main statistics is given.

1. POPULATION.

The population of the Urban District was estimated by the Registrar General to be 9,023 for the mid-year 1949 as compared with 8,870 for the previous year.

2. BIRTHS.

There were 180 live births, 95 males and 87 females, during the year. 4 stillbirths were recorded. 3.9% of all live births were illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 19.9 per 1000 population as compared with 23.7 in 1948.

The following table is of interest:-

Number of live births at home in the area:-	126
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers)	
in Neath General Hospital:-	50
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers)	
in Maesteg Maternity Home	4

30% of all live births either occurred in a hospital or nursing home.

3. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during 1949 was 101, comprising 67 males and 34 females. The death rates per thousand of the population in recent years are as follows:-

1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
11.2	11.9	14.9	11.8	12.3	11.3	11.3

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1949 was 11.7.

The main causes of death were diseases of the heart and blood vessels, cancer and bronchitis.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

10 infants, under one year of age, died during the year. The infant mortality rate - number of deaths of infants under one year per 1000 live births - was 56. The figure for the whole of England and Wales was 32. Comparisons of the annual rates are as follows:-

1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
56	74	56	71	64	56	45

The infant mortality rate in the area has continued, in recent years, to be high as compared with other areas of the country. It is hoped that the provision of a premature baby unit at Neath General Hospital, the recent improvements in the home nursing of the premature babies at home, the additional infant welfare clinic sessions and the improvements in housing will result in a reduction of this loss of infant lives.

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is pleasing to report that, during 1949, there were no deaths of mothers due to pregnancy or childbirth.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE URBAN AREA.

In this section, a brief general description of the services will be made. Full details of the administration and committees which are responsible for the local organisation of the health services are not included.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

This service, which was inaugurated on the 5th. July 1948 has made as yet no radical changes in the local facilities for the treatment of the sick and injured and the prevention of disease. The general practitioners continued their work as in the past. The responsibility for the medical treatment of pit casualties presented a problem now that the poundage system of payment has ceased. The problem has not yet been solved.

A full time dental surgeon is a great need for the area.

1. HOSPITALS.

The administration of the local hospital services is the responsibility of the Mid Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee - office at 8 Wind Street, Neath. This committee has published a report on its work for the period 5th. July, 1948 to December 31st, 1949. Further details of the hospital arrangements can be obtained from the report.

(i) MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PATIENTS.

Neath General Hospital, a fully equipped hospital, provided treatment for the majority of the above patients from the area. A limited proportion were treated at Swansea General Hospital and Morriston Hospital.

(ii) MATERNITY PATIENTS.

The majority of patients, requiring a hospital confinement, were admitted to Neath General Hospital. There seems to be an increasing demand for hospital maternity beds.

The booking of the non-emergency maternity beds was arranged in the early part of the year by Dr. Taylor but he transferred this responsibility to the Port Talbot and Glyncoed Health Division. The scheme was a success as the domestic, medical and housing problems of each applicant received due consideration.

(iii) INFECTIOUS PATIENTS.

Such patients, whose doctors requested hospital treatment, were admitted either to Port Talbot or Maesteg Isolation Hospitals.

(iv) TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

The long delays in admitting patients to sanatoria and the presence of highly infectious cases of tuberculosis in crowded homes continued throughout the year. Patients were admitted to various sanatoria, including Cimla, Sully and Talgarth.

(v) MENTAL (PSYCHIATRIC) PATIENTS.

It has been stated by certain keen observers that the amount of mental illness in the population is increasing. There are all degrees of such illness, from the mild, which often responds to simple treatment by the family doctor to the more severe which necessitates treatment at a mental hospital.

Out-patient facilities were provided at Neath General Hospital. Most in-patients are treated at the Morgannwg Mental Hospital, Bridgend.

In recent years, the treatment of mental patients has advanced considerably and a moderate proportion of cures are obtained.

2. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

This clinic is situated at the Station Approach, Port Talbot.

3. GENERAL PRACTITIONER, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

These services are controlled locally by the Glamorgan Executive Council whose office is at 47, Park Place, Cardiff. The dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are extremely limited. Most adults receive their dental treatment at Maesteg or Neath.

4. ANCILLARY HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

The majority of these local services are under the day to day control of the Port Talbot and Glyncothwyl Divisional Health Committee whose office is at Park House, Theodore Road, Port Talbot. They include the home nursing, health visiting

and midwifery services, the ante-natal and infant welfare clinics and that recent but very useful service - the home helps.

The ambulance service in the area are under the direct control of the Glamorgan County Council.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

This service is not part of the National Health Service. Locally, it is controlled by the Glamorgan County Council and the local office is at Park House, Port Talbot. Despite a shortage of medical staff, all school children in certain age groups were medically examined and arrangements for eye and orthopaedic treatment were made. Dental treatment was delayed as the clinic dentist left the area early in 1949. The urgent dental cases were brought to the clinics at Port Talbot.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During 1949, all bacteriological examinations for the Public Health Department were undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

H O U S I N G.

During the year, 163 new houses were completed by your authority and occupied. Houses in course of erection numbered seventy-five. There were no houses completed under private building licences.

Despite this substantial addition to the housing accommodation in the area the heavy demand for new houses continues.

An examination of the list of applications shows, however, that approximately half are from persons who are already householders.

This is clearly shown in the following table which has been compiled by the Treasurer's Department.

	Applicants- householders.	Applicants sub-tenants.	Total.
Cymmer	75	87	162
Abergwynfi	56	56	112
Duffryn Rhondda	17	31	48
Glyncorrwg	32	30	62
	180	204	384

It would appear, therefore, that in future years applications for Council houses will be mainly from persons who desire a higher standard of living accommodation.

Approximately only one in three of existing houses in the area have bathrooms and domestic water heating systems.

This desire for homes with these necessary conveniences is worthy of sympathetic consideration as only a quarter of the miners in the area have pit head baths.

The condition of many of the old, and some of the comparatively new houses gives cause for concern. Dampness in walls is very prevalent. Methods of building construction which would ensure a dry house in many parts of the country are not always successful in this area where the rainfall is very high and strong winds carry the rain up the valleys at great pace.

The efforts of the sanitary inspector to ensure good standards of repair are maintained are hampered by

the lack of building labour and materials. This is particularly so in the Cymmer Ward where only one building repairer is regularly practising his trade, and he employs only one other person in addition to himself.

It was found necessary in twelve instances to take proceedings in a Magistrates' Court against owners of dwelling houses for non-abatement of nuisances due to disrepair.

The following housing details are of interest:-

1. Number of new dwelling houses erected during the year:-
 - (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) 163
 - (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-
 - (i) Built by the Local Authority..... 163
 - (ii) Built by other bodies or persons..... 0
2. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.
 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 161
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 571
 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925..... 0
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 0
 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 0
 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..152
3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 74
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act, 1936 -
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs..... 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:
 - (a) By Owners..... 0
 - (b) By Local Authority..... 0

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WATER SUPPLIES.

Since 1947, the demand for water has increased mainly due to the development of a factory and a small neighbourhood unit at Croeserw Site, Cymmer. It is anticipated that there will be a steadily increasing demand over the next few years at Croeserw and other new housing sites. It will be necessary in the future stages of the former development to make special arrangements with regard to a supply of water, consideration of which is being given by the Engineer and Surveyor, at the present time. A new 7" diameter water main laid last year from Blaengwynfi to Cymmer has resulted in considerable improvement in pipe supplies to all houses, including those at the highest levels.

During the year chlorination plants, which have been installed at the four service reservoirs in the area, have been overhauled. The Gwynfi Reservoir which is the main service reservoir for the area has been emptied and cleansed. Arrangements are now being put in hand by the Engineer to improve the settling tank arrangements and also to cleanse and renew the sand filter beds. Due to the large gathering ground and the steepness of the slopes in very heavy storm, considerable quantities of peat are washed down into the filter beds and by improving the settling arrangements, it is intended to obviate this trouble. One other point of note, is that the underground source of supply to the service reservoir at East Level, Abergwynfi, whilst being of excellent quality, contains a small iron content, which tends to deposit on the bore more particularly on the old service mains, thereby in time of excessive use, causing very slight discolourisation by removal of the deposit. The Engineer is investigating the means of reducing this minor defect.

During the year under review exceptionally dry weather was experienced and it was evident that there was very little surplus water at the intakes to the service reservoirs. This was more apparent at Glyncoedwg, where the water available from the intakes was just balancing the normal demand. However, no shortage of water was actually experienced, although the inhabitants were advised to co-operate by being economical in the use of the supply. No supply was subject to any specific restriction.

Of the eight samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination, two did not quite reach a satisfactory standard.

Owing to the plumbo-solvent character of the water supplies in the area, all service pipes conveying water for domestic consumption are of galvanised wrought iron.

Seven dwelling houses with a total population of 34 were supplied from public water mains by means of stand-pipes. Dwelling houses to the number of 2,249 with an estimated population of 8,821 were supplied from public water mains direct to the houses.

HYGIENE OF FACTORIES.

The supervision of factories is carried out partly by Government Home Office Factory Inspectors and partly by officers of the Local Authority.

Local Authorities are responsible for administering the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories, and the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

District Councils are also responsible for securing adequate precautions against danger from fire in all factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration
of the Factories Act, 1937.
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
 (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	35	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	52	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	5	-	-
Total	22	92	3	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which		Referred.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Defects were found.	Found. Remedied To H.M.	By H.M.	Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-

Outworkers.

3.

There were 56 outworkers in the August list required by Section 110, Factories Act, 1937. No action was necessary to be taken under Section 110 and 111 of the Act.

HYGIENE OF FOOD.

The large number of outbreaks of food poisoning in recent years has caused much public concern, and has led to increased attention being paid to the hygienic handling of food. There can be no doubt that, during the war years and in the years following, slipshod methods of food handling were tolerated. This was probably due in part to difficulties in connection with labour and materials, and to the fact that the housewife was only too pleased to take what foodstuffs she could get, whether they were handled hygienically or not.

The modern trend towards communal feeding in works and schools canteens is also a contributory factor. Foods favourable to bacterial growth such as made-up meat dishes, trifles and custards are often kept in canteens at unsuitably high temperatures and subsequently served to large numbers of persons.

Canteen workers with low personal standards of hygiene can also cause large quantities of food to be contaminated.

Every effort has been made during the year to secure improved standards of cleanliness in these catering establishments and towards the end of the year the Council adopted certain model byelaws for securing clean methods of handling and delivery of food for sale in the area.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

1. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

During the year 249 visits of inspection were paid to premises where food was prepared, stored and sold. Eight notices were served under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Five of the notices required the provision of adequate washing facilities and the installation of hot and cold water supplies.

The repair of defective roofs and defective interior plastering were subjects of two notices, and one notice was served requiring the cleansing of food premises.

All the notices resulted in satisfactory compliance.

The following articles of food, which were found to be diseased, unwholesome or unsound, were surrendered and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of:-

Beef	-	74	lbs
Mutton	-	5	"
Bacon	-	16	"
Dried Fruit	-	105	"
Eggs	-	12	"
Infants Milk Food	-	15	"
Condensed Milk	-	9	tins
Salad Cream	-	21	bottles
Jam	-	8	tins
Tomatoes	-	22	"
Tomato Paste	-	4	"
Peas	-	9	"
Baked beans	-	4	"
Veal	-	64	lbs
Rabbits	-	62	"
Fish	-	126	"
Butter	-	21	"
Oranges	-	12	cases
Evap. Milk	-	36	tins
Fish	-	9	"
Tinned Meat	-	45	"
Fruit	-	17	"
Fruit Juice	-	9	"
Spaghetti	-	4	"
Soup	-	4	"

The number and classification of premises in the urban area used for the preparation of food for sale are given below:-

Fried Fish and Chip Shops.	-	9
Butchers making Sausages, Faggots etc	-	5
Ice-cream makers.	-	3
Colliery and Factory Canteens.	-	6
School Canteens.	-	6
Cafes.	-	6

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

There are five butchers' shops. These shops are well lighted and ventilated and good standards of cleanliness are maintained. All have refrigerators. Adequate hand washing facilities are provided in each of the premises.

Much of the meat consumed in the area is sold from motor vans, and the regulations in respect to these are strictly enforced.

There are five bakehouses in use in the area situated as follows:-

Abergwynfi - 2. Cymmer - 2. Glyncoirwg - 1.

The total number of persons employed in these bakehouses does not exceed twenty. Regular deliveries of bread are also made in the area by large outside firms. It was found necessary in two instances to serve notices requiring bakehouses to be linewashed.

2. ICE-CREAM.

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947, are an effort to reduce the risk of disease carrying germs entering ice-cream.

There are three ice-cream makers in the area, all of whom use the "hot mix" method.

Two have their registered premises in Glyncoirwg and one in Blaengwynfi.

These ice-cream makers are in a comparatively small way of business, but all have acquired the plant necessary for compliance with the provisions of the Regulations at a cost to each maker of approximately £1,000.

Seventeen premises are registered in the area for the sale and storage only of ice-cream.

Twelve samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and were subjected to analysis and the methylene blue reduction test for bacterial growth at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Results are as follows:-

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number of	Samples	attaining	Provisional	Grade	1	=	4
"	"	"	"	"	"	2	= 6
"	"	"	"	"	"	3	= 2
<u>Total</u>							= <u>12</u>

Grade 1	is	provisionally	interpreted	as	"Satisfactory"
" 2	"	"	"	"	"Fair"
" 3	"	"	"	"	"Unsatisfactory"
" 4	"	"	"	"	"Very unsatisfactory"

Following the receipt of the fair and unsatisfactory samples, an effort was made to trace the method of contamination.

Results of Analyses.Fats.

Number of samples with 3% w/w and under	-	7
" " " " over 3% w/w	-	5

3. MILK.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, the Milk (Special Designation) Act, 1949, and the Regulations made thereunder came into operation on the 1st. October, 1949.

These enactments implement the policy defined by the Government in July, 1943, in the White Paper. "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nations Milk Supply."

Broadly speaking the supervision of milk production on the farm becomes the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, and local authorities retain the duty of controlling the distribution and sale of milk.

Although local authorities cease to be responsible for the supervision of milk production on dairy farms, it is desirable that close co-operation should be maintained between the Ministry of Agriculture Officers and Sanitary Officers of the Local Authorities as the local authority still retain duties at farms in connection with building construction, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal.

Part VII. of the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, containing provisions with regard to the infection of milk is also administered by local authorities, whether at dairy farms or other dairy premises.

When the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, came into force there were eighteen dairy farms in the area. Action taken by your Council's sanitary officers has resulted in structural alterations being carried out to cowsheds at all these farms. Works included provision of good natural lighting, of good head room by removal of lofts over cowsheds, properly drained concrete floors and adequate and easily accessible water supplies.

Owing to the spread of afforestation and other reasons the number of registered dairy farms has been reduced to nine.

Visits of inspection to dairies and cowsheds during the year totalled 120.

Four notices were served during the year drawing attention to breaches of the Regulations. These were remedied without delay.

The following table gives the number and classification of registered persons engaged and registered premises used in the production, sale and storage of milk:-

Cowkeepers	- 9
Retail purveyors of milk	- 18
Milk shops where milk sold in sealed bottles	- 6
Farms other premises used as dairies	- 13

Three retailers were licensed to sell pasteurised milk during the year.

Thirteen samples of milk produced by registered cowkeepers within the Glyncorrwg Urban District were examined during the year for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All the samples proved to be negative.

During 1949 twenty-six samples of ungraded milk and six samples of pasteurised milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspector from retailers of milk in the area, and were conveyed to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The purpose of this examination is to determine the quality of the milk from the standpoint of cleanliness, keeping quality and freedom from contamination. Also in certain cases, when we have reason to suspect tuberculous infection, the milk samples are examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

The various grades of milk mentioned in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, namely, "Accredited," "Tuberculin Tested," and "Pasteurised," have, amongst other conditions, to attain certain standards of bacterial purity, and these standards are useful for the purpose of comparison when dealing with the results of bacteriological examination of ordinary milk.

Thirteen of the ungraded milk samples examined were of milk produced on farms within the Glyncorrwg Urban District, and thirteen were of ungraded milk produced outside the area.

Nine of the samples of milk produced locally, attained the bacteriological standard required for "accredited" milk. Four were unsatisfactory owing to high B. Coli content, or poor keeping quality.

Of the thirteen samples of ungraded milk produced outside the district, all attained the bacteriological standard required for "accredited" milk. It should be noted,

however, that all the samples of ungraded milk produced outside the district had been commercially pasteurised.

There were six samples taken during the year of pasteurised milk; five attained the required standard.

4. RODENT CONTROL.

The officer appointed to supervise the execution and enforcement of this work in the Glyncoerrwg Urban District is the Sanitary Inspector -Mr. John Tate.

The sewerman acts as a part-time rodent operative.

Poisoning was the form of rodent control used by the operative during the year, and the method of application was as recommended by the Infestation Division, Ministry of Agriculture.

Infested premises are pre-baited with biscuit meal or stale bread crumbs for two or three days. On the third or fourth day when the rats are readily consuming the pre-bait, a poison is mixed with the bait. Poisons used are zinc phosphide, arsenic and barium carbonate.

The Council's sewer manholes are poison baited twice a year.

From the amount of poison bait taken it is possible to make an estimate of the number of rats and mice destroyed.

The following table gives a summary of the results achieved.

Ward	Classification of premises etc. treated.	Number of premises and manholes treated.	Number of Baiting Points.	Estimated number of Rats destroyed.
Abergwynfi	Business Premises	8	46	63
"	Dwelling Houses	1	3	1
"	Sewer Manholes	144	144	161
"	River Banks	-	29	31
Cymmer	Council Premises	1	3	-
"	Business Premises	5	53	31
"	Dwelling Houses	2	6	7
"	Sewer Manholes	209	209	201
"	River Banks	-	36	41

Ward	Classification of premises etc. treated.	Number of premises and manholes treated.	Number of Baiting Points.	Estimated number of Rats destroyed.
Glyncorrwg	Council premises	--	--	--
"	Business premises	20	90	71
"	Dwelling Houses	7	14	15
"	Sewer Manholes	134	134	181
"	River Banks	--	127	131
"	Council Premises	--	--	--
"	Schools	2	5	7
Total		533	399	941

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, Mr. John Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has, by inspection of the area, to keep himself informed of the sanitary circumstances of the district and in respect of nuisances that require abatement. Under other Acts, Regulations and Orders, he has a variety of other duties.

A summary of his inspections and visits during 1949 is as follows:-

GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTIONS:-Number.

Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi.....	17
Cymer.....	9
Duffryn Rhondda and Cymonville.....	8
Glyncoffwg.....	8

HOUSING AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS:-

Dwelling Houses in respect of defects and nuisances due to dis-repair.....	161
Re-visits to dwelling houses - as above.....	410
Defective and new drains.....	47
Cinemas and Halls.....	8
Dangerous and dilapidated buildings and structures..	26
Stables.....	3
Piggeries.....	18

HYGIENE OF FOOD INSPECTIONS:-

Dairies, cow-sheds and milk shops.....	120
Butchers' shops, fish shops, grocery stores and food preparation places.....	249

FACTORY INSPECTIONS 92

INSPECTIONS UNDER SHOPS ACT 1934..... 44

PEST CONTROL INSPECTIONS

Rodent Control.....	51
Bed bug infestation.....	18

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Miscellaneous nuisances.....	92
Defective sewers.....	8
Water works and water supply.....	37
Infectious disease and disinfections.....	64

Total number of inspections..... 1508

Action taken in cases of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations discovered during inspections is summarised as follows:-

Subject of Inspections.	Nature of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations.	No. of Informal Notices.	No. of Statutory Notices.	Number of Notices complied with.	
				Informal	Statutory
Dwelling Houses under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	Dampness, Disrepair, Defective paved areas, W.C's				
Dwelling Houses on complaint of a nuisance.	Drainage, etc.	152	75	74	66
Miscellaneous nuisances.	Dead Sheep, Deposits of Manure, Deposits of house refuse, etc.	6	22	6	22
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.	Limewashing required. Accumulations of manure: Dirty milk-stools etc.	4	-	4	-
Dangerous or dilapidated buildings and Structures.	Buildings or Structures dilapidated or dangerous.	11	8	3	8
Butcher shops, Fish shops, Grocery and Provision Stores and places where food is prepared.	Removal of refuse, Cleansing and Limewashing required Provision of adequate washing facilities etc.	8	2	6	2
Factories, Work-shops and Work-places (including Bakehouses)	Cleansing and Lime-washing required. Defective drainage.	3	-	3	-
Piggies.	Cleansing and Lime-washing required.	5	-	5	-
Drains.	Defective & Choked.	17	5	12	5
Domestic Water Supplies.	Insufficient.	1	-	1	-
" "	Houses without water supply.	-	2	-	2
" "	Wastage.	13	3	10	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OR FEVERS.

One of the features of the last hundred years in this country has been the remarkable decline and in some instances the virtual disappearance of certain of the more severe infectious diseases. A century ago our towns and countryside were not infrequently ravaged by epidemics of cholera, smallpox, typhoid fever and even that dread louse borne disease known as typhus fever.

It was these pestilences which stimulated the government of the day to pass laws enforcing certain standards of sanitation and requiring local authorities to employ medical officers of health.

We cannot at present be complacent and regard our community as free from the danger of such fevers. Any lapse of preventive measures or some accident of circumstance can lead to an outbreak. The recent outbreak of smallpox at Glasgow is an example.

There were no serious epidemics during the year. Measles was prevalent but severe cases were uncommon. It is pleasing to record that no definite case of diphtheria was reported.

Despite the outbreak of infantile paralysis, otherwise known as acute poliomyelitis, in many parts of the country, including Port Talbot, no case occurred in the area.

The following table shows the distribution of notified infectious diseases and tuberculosis in the area:--

Disease.	Glyncorrwg.	Cymer.	Abergwynfi	Total for 1949.	Total for 1948.
Scarlet Fever	5	10	5	20	63
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	9
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	49	170	-	219	36
Whooping Cough	1	25	-	26	3
Pneumonia	4	15	-	19	19
Erysipelas	-	3	-	3	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	7	6	17	5
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	1	1	1	3	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1949, there were 78 patients on the tuberculosis register for the area:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	23	12
Females	34	9

During the year 20 notifications of all forms of tuberculosis were received:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	7	1
Females	10	2

During the year 15 pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria. There were three deaths due to tuberculosis.

The distribution of the new tuberculosis notifications was:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Glyncorrwg	4	1
Cymmer	7	1
Abergwynfi	6	1

The ages of the new cases during 1949 are contained in Table 4 at the end of the report.

This disease continued to present one of our most serious public health problems. Medical science has sufficient knowledge to eradicate this scourge but unfortunately we have failed to apply this knowledge. It is hoped that some solution will be found to the shortage of nurses at sanatoria. The recent introduction of B.C.G. immunisation against the disease into the country may prove a useful preventive measure but it is too early to be optimistic.

Locally, with the co-operation of Dr. Trail, the tuberculosis physician, the following action was taken:-

1. Regular visits were made by the health visitors to the homes of all tuberculosis patients and careful attention given to the prevention of the spread of the disease - both in and outside the house.
2. A serious effort was made to ensure that contacts of the disease attended for examination at the chest clinic.
3. Parents were advised strongly by the health visitors and medical officer to give pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk to their children.

TABLE 1.SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR 1949.

These statistics have been confirmed by the Registrar General.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	173	87	86
Illegitimate	7	6	1

Birth-rate per 1,000 population -- 19.9

<u>Still-Births:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	4	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births -- 21.74

<u>Deaths:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
	101	67	34

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population -- 11.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	56.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births.....	57.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births.....	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	1

TABLE 2.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (res- ident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	Glyncoorwge Urban District Council.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-					
<u>Births</u>					
Live Births	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	19.9
Still Births	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.44
<u>Deaths</u>					
All Causes	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	11.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.33
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.44
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	2.17
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	2.88
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.33
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	24.27
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	2.11
Acute poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.00
Acute polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Food poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.00

TABLE 2 (Continued)

	126 C.B.'s England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns (Res- ident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	Glyncoirwg Urban District Council.
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Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-

Deaths

All causes under 1 year of age	32(b)	37	30	29	56
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	5.6

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:-

Notifications (Corrected)

Puerperal fever and pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	5.43
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Maternal Mortality in ENGLAND AND WALES.

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	8
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.11	
142-146, 148-150. Other maternal causes	0.71	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population (b) Per 1,000 related live
births.

TABLE 3.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF INFANTS' DEATHS DURING 1949.

NEONATAL DEATHS : 7 : NEONATAL DEATH RATE : 38.9 per 1000
Live Births.

	<u>1st. 24 hours of</u> <u>life.</u>	<u>One day - one</u> <u>month.</u>
Congenital Heart Disease.....	--	1
Convulsions, Intracranial		
haemorrhage.....	-	1
Prematurity and Inanition.....	-	1
Prematurity, Club Feet and		
Cleft Palate.....	-	1
Hydrocephalus, Arnold Chiari's		
Malformation.....	-	1
Atelectasis, prolonged labour,		
mild Hydrocephalus.....	1	-
Atelectasis, Delayed Labour, .		
Forceps Delivery.....	-	1

DEATHS DURING ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR OF AGE : 3

Cachexia : Marasmus : Broncho-pneumonia.....	1
Gastro-enteritis.....	1
Pneumonia.....	1

TABLE 4.TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1949:-

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY.</u>	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-
Over 1 year and under 5 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 5 years and under 10 years.	-	-	1	1
Over 10 years and under 15 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 15 years and under 20 years.	4	2	-	-
Over 20 years and under 25 years.	1	2	-	1
Over 25 years and under 35 years.	-	3	-	-
Over 35 years and under 45 years.	-	3	-	-
Over 45 years and under 55 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 55 years and under 65 years.	1	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	1	-	-	-
Totals.	7	10	1	2

TABLE 5.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949.

(As recorded by the Registrar General)

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
All Causes	67	34
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	0
9. Influenza	0	0
10. Measles	0	0
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
12. Acute Encephalitis	0	0
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity & oesophagus (male)... ..	1	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
15. Cancer of Breast	0	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	4	1
17. Diabetes	0	0
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	8
19. Heart Disease	25	5
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	3	0
21. Bronchitis	5	2
22. Pneumonia	2	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	6	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0
25. Diarrhoea, under 2 years	0	1
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other Digestive diseases	1	1
28. Nephritis	1	1
29. Ectopic and Post-Abortive Sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	0
31. Premature Birth	1	0
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	2	4
33. Suicide	2	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	0	0
35. Other violent causes	2	1
36. All other causes	3	2

